Supply of LPG

825. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action proposed for supply of LPG to rural areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the Government propose to meet the demand of rural people in view of fuel shortages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). On account of product constraint, at present new LPG distributorships are opened by Public Sector Oil Companies subject to viability, in a phased manner, only in urban areas with a population of 20,000 and above. The distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies register customers residing in their market area in the urban centres. Connections in rural areas are released only on the recommendation/sanction of Members of Parliament and in Hilly areas and rural areas adjoining the urban areas, where the jurisdiction of non-viable distributorships is extended to make them viable. Persons staying within the areas of operation of the distributorships are free to register for new connections.

[Translation]

Backlog for SCs/STs

826. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog in regard to reservation for SCs/STs in various States, State-wise;

(b) the difficulties if any being faced in clearing the backlog;

(c) whether persons from other categories have been appointed against the reserved posts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in this regard with particular reference to Maharasthra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d). Information regarding backlog of reservation for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in services/posts under the administrative control of States is not maintained in Central Government.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

827. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to transfer the centrally sponsored schemes to the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed transfers are likely to be affected;

(c) whether the State Governments can exercise any control or play any role in the matter of grants given to the NGO's; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). It has been decided by the Government that all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation at present, will be reviewed. A paper which will inter-alia include the suggestions regarding the schemes that could be transferred to the States would be put up for a final decision to the National Development Council.

(c) and (d). The various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have their respective Guidelines/Schemes under which grants-in-aid are sanctioned to the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In so far as the Rural Development sector is concerned, the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) provides projectised assistance to take up need based projects as per the laid down norms. Certain selected State Governments are represented in the General Body and the Executive Committee of the Council which manage its affairs. Besides, CAPART has six Regional Committees which are authorised to process and sanction proposals of NGOs upto Rs. 5 lakhs. Some of the Rural Development Secretaries are also represented on it. The joint collaborative machinery at the National Level constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission has recommended that every State Government should set up a cell of their own to facilitate smooth functioning of NGOs and to bring about a closer interface between Government functionaries and the NGOs. Some State Governments do arrange periodic discussion with NGO Groups to resolve their operational problems.

Housing in Concurrent List

828. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have urged the Government to include housing in the concurrent list to enable the State and Central Governments to jointly tackle the problem of housing in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a suitable legislation in this regard;